

Message Text

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63

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

IO-10 EB-07 L-02 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 IGA-01

(ISO) W

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R 081538Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 516

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA, SZ

SUBJECT: LAOS CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING

REF: STATE 74216 (NOTAL)

IN DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT MEETING WITH PETER SALADIN, DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH SWISS MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, EMBOFF STRESSED STRONG US SUPPORT FOR FORMATION OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR LAOS AND URGED SWISS ATTENDANCE AT APRIL 28-29 MANILA MEETING. SALADIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION ON USG POSITION BUT SAID SWISS WOULD NOT RPT NOT ATTEND. HE SAID SWISS WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO CONTRIBUTE. GOS BUDGET SITUATION NOW SO TIGHT THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT PRESENT SMALL EFFORT IN LAOS. MORE-OVER, SWISS HAVE CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED POLICY OF EVEN-HANDED DISTRIBUTION OF AID TO FOUR COUNTRIES OF INDO-CHINA. THEY THUS GENERALLY PREFER INTERNATIONAL COLLA-BORATION FOR REGION AS WHOLE RATHER THAN FOR SPECIFIC COUNTRIES. WHILE SWITZERLAND DOES NOT OPPOSE FORMATION OF COUNTRY CONSULTATIVE GROUPS IN INDOCHINA, SALADIN SAID SWISS PREFER NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH GROUPS.

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Message Attributes

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